



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**

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News Release

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Contact:
Nola Conway

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Volunteers, government agencies work together to save eagle perch at Lucky Peak Dam

Boise, Idaho – Majestic, powerful and the symbol of American pride all describe the mighty bald eagle. The eagles, available to Boise area residents to view at Lucky Peak Dam during the winter months, were at risk of disappearing there when an aging cottonwood tree began to die and lose its branches.

Nearly all of the branches have fallen off the cottonwood tree located near the outlet structure at the base of Lucky Peak Dam, operated by the Walla Walla District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The tree was a favorite perch to wintering bald eagles on the Boise River from mid-December to mid-February. More than a dozen eagles have been seen perched in this tree in past years.

Dave Brownell, the Corps' operations manager at Lucky Peak, and Chris Hoosick, Lucky Peak State Park manager for the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, devised a plan of action to help out Boise's most noble winter visitor. They consulted with their agency wildlife biologists and the suggestion was not only to plant new cottonwood trees, but to also erect perches for the eagles to use while the trees grow big enough to support the birds.

This Arbor Day the two agencies are working together with volunteers to plant young trees around the dying cottonwood. While the trees grow to a size that will support the eagles, perches will be erected from power poles. The Idaho Power Company will be installing two eagle perches they are providing at half-price. Equipment and their time will be donated.

The poles will be erected at 10 a.m. April 26. Volunteers will begin tree planting at 12:30 p.m.

Points of contact for reporters:

Dave Brownell
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lucky Peak Dam Project Office
(208) 343-0671

Chris Hoosick
Lucky Peak State Park
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
(208) 336-9505

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Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876
Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824 CELL (509) 520-1468
Web site: www.nwww.usace.army.mil E-mail: cenwww-pa@usace.army.mil